Misuse of Dowry Prohibition Act

4501. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 58000 cases filed under the provision of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 25000 were found fake;

(b) whether it is a fact that NRIs have complained to the Prime Minister and the President of India against the misuse of Section 498 A of the Prohibition Act by Police, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a website 498.org has been established to make a case against the provision; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by Government to make the law more balanced and objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) As per statistics compiled by NCRB, during the period from 2003-05, out of the total of 9480 cases reported under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, 580 cases were found false/mistaken of fact/ law.

(b) Section 498A is a section of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to cruelty by husband or relatives of husband and not a section of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. One of the complaints of alleged misuse of Section 498A IPC received in the Ministry of Women and Child Development also contained 'NRI's Related Demands'.

(c) The Government does not subscribe to or vouch for or attest the said website.

(d) There is no proposal regarding amendment of Section 498A IPC.

Waving of Lashkar-e-Toiba flags in J&K

†4502. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Lashkar-e-Toiba is an outlawed organization in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Lashkar-e-Toiba flags were openly waved in a public rally held in Srinagar recently;

(c) if so, why they were allowed to do so; and

(d) the action taken against them after the incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPKAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The supporters of the All Party Hurriyat Conference (G) organized a rally when their leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani returned to Srinagar after his treatment in Mumbai. While the rally accompanying Geelani was on its way to Eidgah, a masked person carrying a flag of 'Jamat-ud-Dawa' parent organization of Lashkar-e-Toiba outfit joined it.

(c) and (d) Police Station Safakadal has registered an FIR No. 70/2007 U/S 13,18 Unlawful Activities Act against the All Party Hurriyat Conference (G) leaders including Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Scrapping of Armed Forces Special Power Act and Disturbed Areas Act

4503. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minisiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a key working group on Kashmir set up by Government has recommended scrapping of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and the Disturbed Areas Act, as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have examined the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Jammu and Kashmir Working Group on Confidence Building measures across segment of society in the State has recommended the review and revocation of laws that impinge on Fundamental rights of common citizens, such as Armed Forces Special Powers Act.